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Chairman: Ms. Anguiano Rodriquez (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Mexico)
later: Mr. Gerts (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Netherlands)

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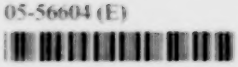

In the absence of Mr. Aliyev (Azerbaijan), Ms. Anguiano Rodriguez (Mexico), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 32: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. D'Alotto** (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, reiterated the Group's commitment to international peace and security and acknowledged the contribution of peacekeeping operations to that end. The completion of several missions testified to the success of the United Nations in its search for the consolidation of the goals of the Charter of the United Nations, although ongoing operations showed that greater efforts by the international community might yet be required. The States members of the Rio Group attentively followed the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and trusted that their bilateral and multilateral support for the Mission would contribute to economic and social development in Haiti.

2. During the discussions at the recent High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, States had also stressed the need to mount operations with adequate capacity to counter hostilities and fulfil specific mandates. The Rio Group believed it was vital to analyse various options for rapid deployment. It appreciated the importance of regional organizations to peacekeeping, and took note of proposals to reorganize the tasks of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. There was an urgent need for dialogue and ongoing coordination between that Department and other departments of the United Nations, particularly the Department of Public Information, and for greater focus on the gender perspective in field activities.

3. On the subject of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by peacekeepers, he hoped that firm measures would be adopted, with special emphasis on preventive aspects, and reiterated that it was the responsibility of persons in leadership positions to provide ongoing guidance to personnel. He called for the lifting of the veil of silence that protected those illicit acts and urged the international community to accord greater priority to assisting victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

4. With reference to financial issues, he said that the Rio Group acknowledged improvements in the timing of reimbursements for contingent-owned equipment and troops and the processing of claims, but regretted that there had been undue delays in some areas and that the United Nations remained indebted for operations that had in some instances already closed more than a decade earlier. He called on the Secretariat to provide information on the creation of a working group to examine the difficulties of troop-contributing countries to fulfil the requirements of rapid deployment, including prompt reimbursement in the rapid deployment phase. Timely reimbursement might provide a mechanism that would allow the Organization to be more effective and responsive.

5. Lastly, he paid tribute to the courage of the men and women who worked as peacekeepers, especially those who had lost their lives in the line of duty.

6. **Mr. Castro** (Brazil) said that the World Summit Outcome had provided a timely guideline for the priorities and challenges of peacekeeping which faced the international community. The strengthening of rapid deployment mechanisms would benefit from a debate to assess the various options and to tackle a number of other equally important issues.

7. Cooperation with regional organizations was another current issue of importance and his delegation recognized the advantages of maintaining a close relationship, in the maintenance of peace and security. He commended the work of the Organization of American States in registering voters in Haiti, and in organizing elections, in coordination with MINUSTAH. For its part, Brazil had made a significant donation to the project responsible for the elections, and had invested in other structural areas such as agriculture, health, food security and institution-building.

8. The role of peacekeepers in serving affected population groups and in post-conflict situations had increased markedly in recent years. Building sustainable peace was a strenuous task that entailed consideration of the root causes of conflict.

9. With regard to the regrettable cases of sexual abuse and exploitation in peacekeeping operations, he said that his delegation looked forward to the results of the inquiry being conducted by the task force on sexual abuse and exploitation.

10. As for the financial aspects, he said that it must be feasible for countries to contribute to peacekeeping and thereby ensure that it was a successful instrument of peace. The proposal submitted by the Rio Group on rapid disbursement was one option to that end.

11. He reasserted Brazil's active commitment to peacekeeping operations, which dated back to 1947, and said that it had substantially increased its contributions in order to meet emerging needs, because it believed that the best way to solve international disputes was through multilateral means.

12. **Mr. Akram** (Pakistan) paid tribute to the work of United Nations peacekeepers and highlighted their role in the maintenance of peace and security, in preventing and containing conflicts, in promoting compliance with international norms and decisions, and in peacebuilding in post-conflict situations. Pakistan was proud of being one of the largest and most consistent contributors to United Nations peacekeeping and was currently involved in 11 missions.

13. The United Nations must be given credit for having adapted to the changing nature of conflicts while maintaining its original noble objectives. Pakistan strongly supported the call by the Non-Aligned Movement and other Member States for strict observance of the basic principles of the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except as mandated by the Security Council. The United Nations was increasingly addressing complex crises and situations through integrated missions. Mandates of complex missions were becoming as diverse and expanded as the comprehensive peace agreements those missions were asked to help implement. For the Organization to face the challenges involved in effectively carrying out its tasks, continued innovation and improvement in all fields, including planning, command and control, force projection and deterrence, were crucial. The recommendations made in the Brahimi report (A/55/305-S/2000/809) and by the Special Committee, and more recently, the vital decisions taken at the 2005 World Summit, including the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission, must be followed through.

14. It was encouraging that the rules of engagement had been strengthened. Adequate resources must be provided. The surge in the demand for professional and experienced personnel presented a major challenge and all Member States should provide full political and financial support to the Organization to meet that challenge. His delegation supported a stronger relationship between the United Nations and the regional organizations. Stressing the importance of triangular cooperation between troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat, he referred to developments in inter-mission cooperation involving the redeployment of forces and expressed regret that troop-contributing countries had not been properly consulted on the matter.

15. His delegation was fully committed to upholding the zero tolerance policy with respect to sexual exploitation and abuse, and believed that accountability extended to commanders and managers alike. He expressed appreciation for the efforts that had been made to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee, and stressed the need for improved coordination and consultation with Member States.

16. Given the volatile and dangerous conditions under which peacekeepers performed their duties, the need to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers could not be overemphasized. Timely field intelligence was also important. In that context, he welcomed the development of a comprehensive policy on joint operations and joint mission analysis cells.

17. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) welcomed the new countries that were contributing troops and police to the many peacekeeping efforts of the United Nations. The role of peacekeeping had evolved over the past six decades, from one of monitoring and observing security situations to one that required undertaking more multidimensional responsibilities. Mandates now often included responsibilities deemed essential for laying the foundations of a lasting peace, such as: the stabilization of the situation on the ground and the protection of civilians; support for humanitarian assistance; the organization of elections; assistance in the development of political structures; engagement in judicial and security sector reform; and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants.

18. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding were now complementary; neither could succeed without the other. Peacekeeping was a prelude to peacebuilding activities that were crucial in order to prevent post-conflict societies from relapsing into chaos and violence. Peacebuilding could not, however, be a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict.

Sustainable peace could be achieved only by providing people with the means for their livelihood, that would lead to sustainable development.

19. His delegation had from the outset supported the establishment of the proposed Peacebuilding Commission. The Commission should start operating in a country as soon as a peacemaking mission was in place. Careful planning was needed to develop a distinct strategic vision for each mission that delineated the respective roles of the international community and the host society.

20. Peacekeeping operations should continue to conform strictly to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The basic peacekeeping principles, namely, the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence and in defence of a mandate authorized by the Security Council, and impartiality should be strictly observed.

21. His country was in favour of the United Nations providing support for peacekeeping operations carried out by the African Union.

22. The safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers was of paramount importance, and his delegation condemned the killing of peacekeepers that had occurred in some missions. He welcomed the decision of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to adopt an integrated approach in that respect in collaboration with the Department of Safety and Security. It was crucial to improve the capacity for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information in real time. His delegation hoped that further improvements to the mechanisms of the Joint Mission Analysis Cells and Joint Operations Centres would enhance the capacity of missions to meet their safety and security needs.

23. The rapid and effective deployment of peacekeepers was essential for successful intervention in crisis situations. Strategic deployment stocks and pre-mandate commitment authority had proved useful in that regard. His delegation was open to all ideas that would enhance the deployment capacity of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It therefore welcomed proposals for the establishment of a standing police capacity and a strategic reserve force. Such a force should not, however, in any way affect regular deployment in peacekeeping missions, as that could curtail their ability to fulfil their mandate.

24. It was a matter of profound regret that the accomplishments of thousands of peacekeepers over the past decades had been marred by allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by some peacekeepers. His country supported and was in compliance with the zero tolerance policy in dealing with such issues. Military and civilian peacekeepers alike must have the confidence of the people they were assigned to protect. His delegation welcomed the initiative of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to launch an integrated training service that would include training on matters relating to sexual exploitation and abuse.

25. Sincere and sustained consultations among the Security Council, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries were essential for mounting and sustaining successful peacekeeping missions. Troop-contributing countries, which were best placed to assess the situation on the ground, must be involved in all stages of mission planning.

26. His country's long-standing commitment to United Nations peacekeeping remained unflinching. It emanated from its conviction that development could take place only in a society that was free from violence.

27. **Mr. Rampangilei** (Indonesia) said there had been evident improvements in United Nations peacekeeping operations in the five years following the issuance of the Brahimi report, although much remained to be done. Given the dynamic changes that had taken place, the time was now ripe to re-examine it. For example, the report was based on the understanding that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would launch only one large mission a year, whereas four such missions had been launched in 2004 alone. The time had come to synthesize the lessons learned into a body of knowledge and guidance for United Nations peacekeeping, so as to help to structure training and prepare peacekeepers for work in the field. Accordingly, his delegation was pleased to learn that the integrated training service, by which the United Nations would ensure consistent, thorough training for all peacekeeping personnel, would be implemented within the next six months. A career structure similar to the one established in the United Nations Secretariat should be developed to consolidate peacekeeping as a set of specialized skills and to enhance its practice.

28. The value of enhanced partnership in United Nations peacekeeping was receiving greater recognition. It was important to explore all aspects of multilateral partnership and coordinate them effectively in order to ensure full use of the potential of each partner.

29. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations needed to be reorganized to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. His delegation welcomed the suggestion of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations that integrated and cohesive teams should be established in the Department to direct and support field operations. Since resource constraints would always be an issue, it was necessary to be innovative in determining priorities and allocating resources. His delegation welcomed the collaboration between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in the elaboration of the framework for the standing civilian police capacity; it hoped that outstanding issues concerning the military strategic reserve force and the Standby Arrangements System would be resolved shortly.

30. Peacekeeping would always require effective, sustained cooperation and interaction between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and command on the ground. Advantage should be taken of the readiness of regional organizations to assist in peace operations, since they were familiar with their regions and were close to crisis areas; the mechanism for such cooperation should, however, be very clear.

31. Lastly, he called on troop-contributing countries to take adequate action to ensure there were no more instances of sexual misconduct by peacekeepers.

32. **Mr. Tachie-Menson** (Ghana) said that peacekeeping played a pivotal role in the maintenance of international peace and security, one of the cardinal mandates of the United Nations. Accordingly, it was necessary to use a transparent process to recruit personnel with the highest qualifications to occupy key posts. More needed to be done to redress the heavy imbalance in favour of the developed countries among senior-level field appointments. His delegation had grave concerns about recent attempts to introduce new selection criteria for some posts without consultations with troop-contributing countries, and about apparent selectivity in their implementation.

33. Peacekeeping was part of a continuum, rather than an end in itself. It facilitated an atmosphere conducive to good governance and socio-economic development. His delegation strongly supported the focus on an integrated approach, which sought to incorporate peacebuilding measures at the beginning of a peacekeeping mission. A well-coordinated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration component contributed enormously to the realization of sustainable peace.

34. Regional and subregional organizations had a vital role to play in conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. With the establishment of the African Union's Peace and Security Council, African countries had shown their determination to overcome the conflicts that had bedeviled the region. While the assistance extended by the United Nations and development partners was welcome, further cooperation was needed to enable the African Union to assume its responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security on the continent, so as to enable the region to realize its socio-economic potential and assume its rightful place in the global arena. In that regard, the training of troops and the standardization of equipment for the proposed five subregional African standby brigades required urgent attention.

35. His delegation supported the call for the establishment of a standing civilian police capacity, but cautioned that the selection should be fair, transparent, and based on the Organization's principles. It also endorsed the decision regarding formed police units, but again stressed that the meagre financial resources of most developing countries could inhibit their desire to implement the decision; they might require assistance to address inadequate logistical capabilities.

36. The improper conduct of United Nations peacekeepers should be strongly condemned and realistic measures should be taken to prevent any recurrence. The current focus on the misconduct of a few peacekeeping personnel should not, however, divert attention from other important operational issues. The recent unprovoked attacks on a number of African peacekeepers in Darfur had renewed concern for the safety of field personnel.

37. *Mr. Gerts (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

38. **Mr. Shin** Kak-soo (Republic of Korea) said that the unprecedented surge in the number and scope of

peacekeeping operations in recent years was seriously overstretching the resources and abilities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The nature of peacekeeping had become more complex and multidimensional and, in consequence, the range of competencies required of the Department had become much broader. In addition, the increase in the financial resources required placed a substantial burden on Member States and the expansion could not continue indefinitely. The mandate of each peacekeeping mission should be defined clearly at its inception, as should the exit strategies, to the extent possible. Current peacekeeping operations entailed diverse missions above and beyond the maintenance of peace; elements such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, reconstruction and social stability were equally important. Approaches to those matters therefore needed to be integrated into all peacekeeping operations from the initial planning stage. To facilitate integrated planning, a specific mechanism was needed to ensure the deployment of an appropriate mixture of political, military, development and humanitarian measures. His delegation therefore steadfastly supported the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission.

39. If the United Nations was to respond to crises in time to prevent them from escalating out of control, the Department's rapid deployment capacity needed to be strengthened. The establishment of a standing civilian police capacity and of a strategic reserve had been recommended. Cooperation with regional groups such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union and the African Union should be considered as a way of setting up such a reserve. Increased cooperation between peacekeeping operations and regional groups had been stressed and avenues for cooperation between the United Nations, regional groups and donor countries should be explored. Indeed, cooperation should extend to all stakeholders, including major financial contributors, in the form of regular consultation.

40. The increased role of African countries in peacekeeping operations was welcome and the United Nations should continue its efforts to help to strengthen their peacekeeping capacities. Moreover, when recruiting personnel for the Department, it was important to emphasize balanced geographical distribution; special consideration should be given not only to applicants from troop-contributing countries, but also to those from countries contributing financial resources.

41. His delegation strongly supported the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy towards misconduct. It agreed that the investigative capacity within the United Nations should be strengthened and the responsibility of commanding officers for the misdeeds of the peacekeeping personnel under their authority should be increased. Unified guidelines applicable to all United Nations peacekeeping personnel should be developed and implemented. His country was strongly committed to peacekeeping and had lived up to that undertaking by its substantial financial contribution and its participation in peacekeeping operations around the world.

42. **Mr. Celarié Colato** (El Salvador) said that the Military and Civilian Police Advisers Community had been observing the work of several peacekeeping missions, and the next annual report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should include a section on the specific recommendations arising from its reports.

43. It was vitally important to provide greater support to the United Nations departments responsible for standardizing peacekeeping training. Even though training was a national responsibility, all countries needed to follow similar guidelines.

44. El Salvador was a successful example of a peacekeeping operation that had culminated in the signing of a peace agreement. It now offered to transfer the experience accumulated during the negotiations and the consolidation of peace. The lessons learned provided guidelines that could be applied in conflict situations with similar characteristics. His Government was eager to give back to the international community the political support it had received and also the experience gained in the process of building and consolidating peace, by playing an active role in peacekeeping operations through its civilian police and armed forces and well-qualified Salvadoran officials.

45. **Mr. Ayafor** (Cameroon) said that the challenge for Member States was to continue to make peacekeeping operations more effective even as they became more complex and numerous, by taking a more integrated approach and devoting sufficient financial and human resources to them.

46. Peacekeeping operations were perhaps the most visible aspect of United Nations action in the maintenance of international peace and security, and care should be taken not to have those showcase operations s[illegible]lied by dishonourable conduct on the part of peacekeeping personnel. Member States whose nationals were guilty of the kind of deplorable sexual abuse that had occurred in the Democratic Republic of the Congo should act to avoid any repetition within their contingents. Adequate training of peacekeeping personnel was the key to both the avoidance of misconduct and the achievement of effectiveness, and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should continue to include the teaching of ethics and discipline in its training curriculum The Secretary-General's zero tolerance approach to sexual exploitation and abuse was commendable, and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should, with the Department of Public Information, explain the Organization's policy to the local populations.

47. The establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission had been one of the major proposals of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly. Africa, especially, placed great hope in such a new body, which would help to ensure the rapid reconstruction of the States emerging from crises and allow coordination of the transition between the peacekeeping and reconstruction phases. The Peacebuilding Commission, however, would be able to work well only if a climate of peace had been sufficiently established in the troubled area before the full withdrawal of peacekeeping troops. The inclusion of troop-contributing countries and members of the Security Council in the Commission would make it possible to have a clear, practical picture of the security situation in the field.

48. The 2005 High-level Plenary Meeting Outcome had rightly emphasized the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. African countries were becoming increasingly involved in peacekeeping through the African Union. Despite its limited means, which curtailed the action it could take, the successful intervention of the African Union in Burundi had been a source of satisfaction, while its military deployments in the Sudan, while encouraging, showed that it could do better and that the African peacekeeping capacities needed to be reinforced. Central Africa looked forward to receiving United Nations cooperation in peacekeeping, as was already the case in other African regions.

49. Successful operations always took into account the realities on the ground. The Security Council decision to increase the troop strength of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) should make it possible for the presidential election to be held there as scheduled. The security of peacekeeping personnel was, however, a continuing source of concern, in the light of attacks committed against them in recent months.

50. Cameroon was taking an increasingly active part in peacekeeping operations. Cameroonian contingents of military observers and police were currently deployed in Haiti, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi, and his Government was, in addition, ready to help with the training of police personnel.

51. **Mr. Al-Otaibi** (Kuwait) said, that in addition to playing a vital role in defusing tensions around the world, peacekeeping operations were performing functions that were different from those that they had previously performed, such as disseminating humanitarian aid, monitoring elections and human rights, demining and disarmament, civilian policing, and helping to build State institutions. Such operations were basic tools for preserving international peace and security, and needed to be enhanced by a clearer definition of missions and leadership structures, greater coordination between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries, more United Nations involvement in preventive diplomacy, and improved training and planning.

52. There had been greater cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, and it was hoped that the enhanced standby arrangements of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would improve rapid deployment capabilities. His delegation expressed its support for the recommendations of the adviser to the Secretary-General, His Royal Highness Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, regarding sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping personnel, and the measures taken to punish perpetrators of such acts, which harmed the reputation of the United Nations.

53. Kuwait had signed a Headquarters Agreement supporting the humanitarian and political activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), and it hoped that elections would be conducted on schedule and result in an elected constitutional Government as envisioned by the Security Council in its resolution 1546 (2004). Kuwait would continue to provide all the support it could to help Iraq to get through the current difficult period in its history.

54. Although its contributions to the peacekeeping budget had quintupled over the past few years, Kuwait was committed to continuing to pay its share; it hoped that other nations would do so too, because the various missions needed adequate resources to carry out their mandates. He commended the courage and sacrifice of those who served in peacekeeping missions, whether in a civilian or a military capacity, and called for adequate security measures to protect them.

55. **Mr. Li** Junhua (China) observed that peacekeeping operations were both a major collective security mechanism and a creative endeavour on the part of the United Nations as a dynamic force for the maintenance of world peace. With over 68,000 peacekeeping personnel currently in over 100 countries, the United Nations peacekeeping operations had over the years weathered many challenges.

56. The increased demand for peace operations and their greater scope and scale, however, had created a need for change. Many of the reforms advocated in 2000 by the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, in its report, known as the Brahimi Report, had already been implemented; and the recent favourable assessment in the 2005 World Summit Outcome should give further impetus to the reform process. Peace operations should combine continuity and innovation, in keeping with the principles of the Charter and Security Council mandates, and in the process it was important always to maintain impartiality and respect the views of the countries concerned. In the discussions of the needed reforms, his delegation hoped that the views of the developing countries would be fully taken into account.

57. The available resources must be used effectively, given the increasing demand for peacekeeping, especially for the maintenance of regional peace and security. All Member States should therefore increase their contribution to the effort, politically, financially and in terms of human resources, and the full potential of existing mechanisms must be tapped through better management and integration.

58. His delegation favoured more rapid deployment of peace operations and supported the early implementation of the proposals regarding the establishment of a military strategic reserve force and a standing civilian police capacity. In consultation with Member States, the Secretariat should make practical proposals for those arrangements.

59. The United Nations should, furthermore, mobilize regional organizations in support of peacekeeping. The African Union was to be commended for its efforts to mediate and resolve conflicts on that continent, and the Security Council should work closely with it, supplying financial, logistical and technical support to enhance its peacekeeping and peacebuilding capabilities.

60. In recent years, China had expanded its involvement in peacekeeping, having contributed over 3,000 military, police and civilian personnel to a total of 14 operations. Currently, it had 1,500 peacekeepers in 11 mission areas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Haiti, and it was a part of the United Nations Standby Arrangement System.

61. **Mr. Kryzhanivsky** (Ukraine) said that the safety and security of United Nations field personnel was of particular concern to his Government, which endorsed the concept of joint mission analysis cells in each mission to improve information gathering and the analysis of threats to peacekeeping personnel.

62. Acts of misconduct, in addition to harming the local population, undermined the credibility of the United Nations. His delegation supported the United Nations policy of zero tolerance with regard to sexual misconduct by peacekeeping personnel and welcomed the measures being taken by the Secretary-General and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to address the issue.

63. Rapid deployment was essential to the success of a peacekeeping operation. His delegation urged the Secretariat to continue to work with Member States to make mechanisms such as the strategic deployment stocks and the United Nations Standby Arrangements System fully effective, in the light of lessons learned from recent mission start-ups. Ukraine supported the proposed creation of a standing civilian police capacity

and looked forward to contributing to it. One of the major obstacles to the rapid deployment of troops in the field had always been the need to secure financial resources, and it was important to find ways to ensure that troop-contributing countries received timely reimbursement for troops and contingent-owned equipment.

64. The partnership between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the area of peacekeeping should be strengthened through the provision of regional peacekeeping capacities. Assistance should be given to the regional organizations, particularly the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to expand their capacities.

65. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should continue to make it a high priority to work closely with troop-contributing countries. Interaction that involved the Security Council as well was indispensable to the effective conduct of peacekeeping operations at every stage.

66. Considerable progress had been made in reforming peacekeeping operations since the Brahimi report and the Headquarters capacity to plan, support and conduct such operations had been strengthened.

67. Ukraine, which had always been a supporter of United Nations peacekeeping, had been contributing troops and civilian police and providing strategic airlift capacities, helicopters and other equipment to peace operations, and would continue to do so.

68. **Ms. Pęksa-Krawiec** (Poland) said that the implementation of the recommendations in the Brahimi report had enabled the Organization to adopt a more complex, mature and effective approach, based on modern principles, to the reform of peacekeeping mechanisms, which had become increasingly complex and organizationally and financially more demanding. The changing international climate, however, brought new challenges and threats to the security of both States and individuals and the international community had to be prepared to deal with them. The 2005 World Summit had agreed on a new vision of world relations and even specific directions on how the Organization could adjust to the new situation.

69. One of the proposals made by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations for the implementation of the Summit Outcome proposals with regard to peacekeeping — the elaboration of a peacekeeping doctrine — had particularly caught his delegation's attention. There was an urgent need to draw up a basic document, which would provide definitions, describe the environment in which peace operations were conducted, give systematic guidelines for the planning, deployment and conduct of operations, establish rules of engagement with regional organizations and other international institutions, and set clear standards of cooperation with Member States. In cooperation with other States, Poland was ready to support all the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in that regard.

70. As a member of many regional and subregional organizations involved in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, Poland saw a very practical need for strengthening their cooperation with the United Nations through agreements establishing a framework for cooperation, and the other measures set out in Security Council resolution 1631 (2005), and also through the sharing of experience in the operational and doctrinal fields.

71. What seemed to be most urgent, however, was the issue of practical cooperation in the planning of forces and the conduct of operations. Member States as well as the United Nations were overstretched, and were less and less able to provide troops when the need arose. Thus, in cooperation with other organizations, a new approach to the planning of forces needed to be developed and the concept of a strategic reserve force had to be made operational.

72. The Peacebuilding Commission would offer another opportunity for cooperation between regional organizations, United Nations agencies and the Secretariat. His delegation was confident that its establishment would further the development of multifunctional and multifaceted peacekeeping missions, especially in Africa, where solid foundations had to be laid for sustainable reconstruction and development.

73. Regrettably, the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse by members of peacekeeping missions still persisted, and the Secretariat and Member States must apply the zero tolerance policy with greater determination by enforcing the rules of conduct and by ensuring that instances of misconduct were punished. That message must reach every level of the peacekeeping structure. His delegation supported the

proposal of the Office of Internal Oversight Services that national investigation officers should be appointed to bring offenders to justice. Indeed, no misconduct of any sort by peacekeepers, no violation of discipline, could be tolerated. Peacekeepers, both military and civilian, were sent into the field to help people and countries in need, and the trust and hope of those peoples in the United Nations must not be undermined.

74. **Mr. Spatafora** (Italy) said that the capacity of the United Nations to conduct peacekeeping operations had improved considerably since the adoption of the Brahimi report. His delegation was committed to providing the United Nations with the necessary tools to confront the very complex nature of peacekeeping operations and the new challenges the Organization faced in that regard. He commended the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to address the multidimensional aspects of modern peacekeeping missions, such as the rule of law, the protection of children in armed conflict and gender issues in activities ranging from conflict prevention to peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. His delegation was confident that the proposed Peacebuilding Commission, which should be made operational by the end of the year, would provide an institutional framework within which it would be possible to develop more consistent policies to be implemented on the ground. In recent years, his country had made unprecedented increases in its contributions and commitments to multilateral organizations whose purpose was to maintain international peace and security.

75. At the 2005 World Summit, his delegation had acknowledged the important contribution to peace and security made by regional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. The time had come to develop more structured, focused, efficient and effective ways and means for such cooperation, and his country would act consistently to achieve that goal. It would work with its European partners under the European Union/United Nations Joint Declaration on Crisis Management, signed in September 2003, to implement the Declaration and advance mutual understanding. It had also joined other Group of Eight partners in the Global Peace Operations Initiative, the aim of which was to train 75,000 peacekeepers by the year 2010. Based on the experience of its military police forces, the Carabinieri, Italy had established a Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units in Vicenza to provide training and skills for peace support operations. His country looked forward to continuing and, if possible, strengthening cooperation between the Centre and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

76. The Brindisi airbase, which Italy had donated to the United Nations in 1994, provided the Department with an operational logistics base that had proved essential in meeting the complex requirements of peacekeeping operations. The base also provided support in the areas of communication and training. His country was also prepared to finalize an agreement with the World Food Programme to expand the Logistics Base to the former NATO military base in San Vito de Normanni. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as an active participant in the negotiations, should carefully consider locating the duty station of the standing police capacity at the logistics base.

77. The sexual exploitation and abuse scandal had seriously damaged the image of United Nations peacekeeping forces. Many aspects of the problem had legal consequences which must be approached with the proper caution, through an active dialogue with troop-contributing countries that addressed the different legal systems involved. The Secretariat should also devote special attention to preventive action, in particular, to ensure that peacekeeping troops met the required standards and took specialized training courses aimed at raising awareness of the problem.

78. **Mr. Mahajan** (India) said that the fact that conflicts kept erupting all over the world was a sad commentary on the state of the global community. It was important to persevere in efforts to prevent conflicts in the hope — however utopian it might sound — that peace would one day prevail worldwide and that there would no longer be any need for peacekeeping operations.

79. Although the surge in peacekeeping operations had brought new challenges and demands, old problems persisted. The main difficulty was not a lack of resources or of personnel, but the fact that the Security Council was unrepresentative, lacked the political will to take adequate action, and failed adequately to involve troop contributors — the key players on the ground — in discussions that could lead to optimal decisions. He drew attention to the recent developments involving the United Nations Mission in

Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) in that regard. Moreover, although some non-permanent members of the Security Council had attempted to utilize existing consultation mechanisms, the overall situation was less than desirable.

80. His country's bitter experience with respect to the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) had prompted it to be a strong advocate for enhanced interaction between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries. Articles 43 and 44 of the Charter of the United Nations called for participation by Members providing armed forces in decision-making regarding the employment of their contingents. That provision was observed mostly in the breach. If troop-contributing countries were not given a voice in the evolution of Security Council mandates, they might have little option in the future but to pull out of operations in which their troops were forced to take on tasks that either could not or should not be carried out.

81. The fact that over 80 per cent of the troops currently deployed in peacekeeping operations were from members of the Non-Aligned Movement was a distressing reflection on the willingness of members of the Security Council to share the burden of maintaining international peace and security, particularly given the primary responsibility of the Council in that regard under Article 24 of the Charter.

82. His delegation was dismayed that various constraints, especially fiscal considerations, were circumscribing United Nations peacekeeping activities, as evidenced by the recent tendency to favour regional solutions in peacekeeping, particularly in Africa. Although the United Nations could not be everywhere, the Council must guard against creating the perception that it was opting for regional solutions in order to avoid exercising its global responsibility for peace and security. The United Nations was the only universal organization with the legitimacy, moral authority, experience and expertise required to discharge that responsibility.

83. His country had already endorsed the United Nations policy of zero tolerance regarding sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping personnel and had taken a more forceful position against such actions in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in April 2005 than had many other delegations. His country wished to assure the Secretary-General that it would continue to work vigorously towards the full implementation of his recommendations on the issue.

84. On the question of enhancing the capabilities of the United Nations to deploy forces rapidly and effectively his delegation had noted with interest that a standing civilian police capacity would be established on a pilot basis in 2006 in order to facilitate the start-up of civilian components of peacekeeping operations. It also looked forward to resuming discussions on the strategic reserve concept.

85. His delegation fully shared the concerns that had been voiced concerning the safety and security of peacekeepers and associated United Nations personnel. It believed that the Security Council was not shouldering its responsibilities in that regard in the case of UNMEE. His delegation had also taken note of the fact that a comprehensive policy on Joint Operations Centres and Joint Mission Analysis Cells was being developed, building on best practices in the field, and it urged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to make a serious effort to ensure that troops in the field received the tactical information they required in real time. Sufficient information of that kind had been sorely lacking thus far.

86. His country had actively participated in United Nations peacekeeping operations since their inception in the 1950s and it believed it had earned the right to speak frankly about the real needs of peacekeeping. His delegation would provide its full support as the Committee continued to tackle the challenges of peacekeeping in 2006.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.